

S L C R E

PROCESSING ANALYSIS

19

Chief of Station, Santo Domingo

INFO.

FROM

Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

SUBJECT

Operational Personnel and Security Matters
Mitchell Livingston WER-BELL, III

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

Reference: HDCA-3447

Action: Paragraphs 1 and 8.

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1. In response to the Station's request contained in reference for information on Mitchell Livingston WER-BELL, III, this is to provide the Station with some pertinent personal data on him, and to recommend that the Station, i.e., Theodore R. KETTNER, avoid contact with him in operational matters but, to the extent securely possible, monitor his activities in the area.

2. WER-BELL, born on 8 March 1918 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was married in 1942 to Hildegard Elizabeth HEMMERICH, and has six children. He was an Army first lieutenant when recruited by KUTWIN, with which service he saw duty with some distinction in the China Theater during the second half of 1945.

3. In 1953 he established his own business, Mitchell Werbell Public Relations and Advertising Company, in Atlanta, Georgia, which went out of business in 1959, due to insolvency caused primarily by his injudicious and unorthodox trade practices.

4. Subject is well-known to KUBARK, whose officers have categorized him variously as unscrupulous, a "wheeler-dealer", and a promoter of grandiose schemes; as a man who lives beyond his means; and as a high-pressure advertising and promotion man.

5. In the summer of 1959 Subject offered his services to KUBARK, claiming knowledge of Cuban and Dominican affairs. Although a POA was granted on 4 August 1959 for his use as a source of information on revolutionary activities in the Caribbean area, it evolved that the information he provided was of little value. It was further judged that Subject wished to

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use KUBARK funds to promote his personal interests and, consequently, he was terminated in October of 1959.

6. With regard to Subject's assertions as reported in reference, we wish to comment that:

a. Although we cannot confirm or controvert his status as vice-president of FINA, in April of 1963 he allowed to ODENVY at Atlanta that he was president of Communications International, Inc. ODENVY had contacted Subject to determine his possible connection with Dr. Elmer Henry LOUGHLIN, who has recently been indicted as an unregistered agent of the Haitian Government.

b. While his claim of past KUTWIN service is true, the degree of his friendship with that service's well-known director remains open to speculation, for there are no indications that the two were even acquainted.

c. The nature and extent of his relationship with many important Central American officials is scored by an episode which occurred in August-September 1962, when he tried to secure the recognition by several Central American countries of a Cuban government in exile. In this undertaking, for example, he offered a Nicaraguan government spokesman \$100,000 to secure that country's recognition. And, in October of 1962, he reportedly tried, through an intermediary, to purchase used military aircraft in PBPRIME ostensibly for use in the Dominican Republic to train Latin American pilots for a thrust against Cuba. In this October report, Subject is cited as being a former public relations representative here for the Trujillo regime.

7. Further to the above, in October of 1962 Subject was being investigated by ODENVY for his possible involvement in 1959 in the shipping of arms to Ecuador.

8. The above salient features as to Subject's background, should be sufficient to discourage any operational use of subject, and to indicate the need for caution on ATTAKER's part should he have any further contact with him. At the same time, Headquarters considers that information on Subject's local activities and contacts, as could affect ODYOKÉ interests, should be reported as such becomes known to the Station.

OLIVER G. GALBOND

7 FEB 1964